formulations where instances of overcharging have been detected and since when the price on each being overcharged: and

(d) what action has been taken by Government on each case and what is the present position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Government has recovered Rs. 106.34 lakhs including Rs. 20 lakhs deposited by M/s Sandoz in Bombay High Court, on account of overcharging by drug companies after the promulgation of DPCO, 1987. As and when any complaint alleging overcharging prices of certain bulk drugs and formulations is received the same is referred to the concerned State Drug Control Administration for investigation and necessary action under the Essential Commodities Act 1955. The complaints of alleged overcharging in prices include more than 20 bulks drug and several formulations.

To the extent information is available, the State Drugs Controller of Maharashtra has filed complaints in Courts of Law against 9 units including traders and manufacturers. The State Drugs Controller of Gujarat has also initiated action against 3 units on account of overcharging.

Imports of DL-2 Aminobutanol and D-Tartaric Acid

2083. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total imports of DL-Aminobutanol and D-Tartaric Acid by the major producer during the last three years and what was the landed cost of such imports yearwise;

(b) the utilization of both these inputs and production of the end bulk drug during the above period of three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that consumption norms used in pricing were much higher than the actual consumption;

(d) whether it is also a fact that usage of D-Tartaric Acid have been discontinued or restricted and still high consumption norm is given in pricing; and

(e) if so, what steps have been taken to investigate the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Company-wise import and utilization of drug intermediates are not monitored.

(c) to (e) The prices of bulk drugs are fixed/revised based on the cost-cum-technical study conducted by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices, which is an expert body of the Government in this matter. There is no information regarding discontinuation of usage of D-Tartaric Acid.

Furnishing of information by M/s. Rhone Poulanc and Aristo regarding Metronidazole

2084. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to get the details of purchase and prices in respect of Metronidazole from M/s. Rhone Poulanc and M/s. Aristo, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as a result of that their liability under para 7(2) could not be worked out; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to work out the provisional liability in both the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Both these companies were issued notices to submit the required details to work out the amount of liability under para 7(2) of DPCO, 1979. M/s. Rhone Poulanc asked for personal hearing which was granted to them on 24-6-1993, in which the company raised some legal issues which are under examination. M/s. Aristo has not submitted any details and the company has been informed that in case of failure to submit the required details, the Government would be left with no alternative but to work out the liability from whatever data becomes available from whichever source.

Liability of S. G. Pharmaceuticals

2085. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to assess the liability of S. G. Pharmaceuticals for the years 1984—87 in respect of Xylocaine so far;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have

not yet assessed the liabilities of certain other companies of the periods between 1983 to 1987;

(d) if so, what are the names of companies, names of drugs and the periods for which the liabilities are to be assessed; and

(e) what is the reason of delay in each case ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) To the extent information available, there is no liability of M/s. S. G. Pharmaceuticals in respect of bulk drug Xylocaine;

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Assessment of tentative liabilities of the companies due to violation of various provisions of DPCOs and/or because of the Judgements of the Courts has already been completed in a number of cases, while in respect of the remaining cases, all efforts are being made to complete the same as early as possible. In a number of cases, the progress has been hampered on account of non-receipt of data for the entire period. All efforts are being made to effect the recoveries as per law.

Policy on Petrochemicals Industry

2086. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently relaxed the policy with regard to petrochemicals industry by permitting the setting up of petrochemical complexes based on imported naptha; and

(b) if so, whether Government would accord approval to MRPL, Mangalore for setting up a petrochemicals complex adjacent to their refinery ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) The techno-economic aspects, demand-supply situation and availability of feedstock are the main considerations for grant of industrial approvals for setting up petrochemical complexes. The policy has not undergone any change in the recent past in so far as the use of imported naphtha is concerned.

(b) Grant of approval for setting up a petrochemicals complex at Mangalore will also be determined on the considerations indicated above.

Shortage of Staff in Sindri Unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd.

2087. SHRI GAYA SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of staff in lower grades of technical discipline in the Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd., Sindri Unit;

(b) if so, the strength of technical staff as per permanent set up and shortage thereof grade-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that many apprentices have been trained in different discipline by the Sindri Unit; and

(d) if so, whether they are not being absorbed against the existing vacancies; if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the Apprentices Act, 1961, apprentices have been trained in different discipline by the Sindri Unit of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCI).

(d) FCI, which has been declared a sick company by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), has surplus manpower and is confronted with a difficult financial situation. In view of this, it has not been possible to absorb any trained apprentices in the company.

Unauthorised Occupation of Land Belonging to Sindri Unit of FCI

2088. SHRI GAYA SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many outsiders and ex-employees have unauthorisedly occupied the land belonging to the Sindri Unit of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited;

(b) if so, what actions have been taken to vacate the FCI's land at its Sindri Unit and the results thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the land is being occupied unauthorisedly in connivance of the Company's officers; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons for such malpractices continuing unabated ?